

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Interactive television process applicable to a system where at least one transmitting station transmits programs to receivers, the process comprising:

- a) reception in one of said receivers, of a startup application and of a first application, wherein the a triggering of said startup application, where said startup application performs a test, causes an execution of steps b) to d);
- b) testing for a presence in a memory of said receiver the one of said receivers of at least one file of additional data;
- c) in the absence of said file of additional data in said memory, starting up of the first application;
- d) if said file of additional data is present in said memory, starting up of a second application, said second application using said file of additional data, where each of said applications is a functional assembly designed for execution at the level of said receiver the one of said receivers.

2. (Currently amended) Interactive television process according to Claim 1, wherein, with said transmitting station comprises at least one link for bilateral communication with said receivers, said process comprises the following prior steps:

- e) reception of a message proposing loading of said file of additional data into said receiver the one of said receivers;
- f) acceptance or refusal by a user of said receiver the one of said receivers, of the proposed loading;
- g) in case of refusal, exiting from the present process;
- h) in case of acceptance, automatic downloading of said file of additional data which is usable subsequently by said startup application into said receiver the one of said receivers, via said bilateral communication link;
- i) recording in said memory of said receiver the one of said receivers, of said file of additional data.

3. (Currently amended) Interactive television process according to Claim 2, comprising, before step f), the reception, by ~~said receiver~~ the one of said receivers, of at least one cue regarding the contents of said file of additional data, said cue preferably being chosen from among a size, a subsequent date of use, a date of expiry or of validity of the additional data, a date on which the additional data will be used, a broadcasting channel which will use the additional data, and a downloading address.
4. (Previously Presented) Interactive television process according to claim 2, comprising, before step h), a step in the course of which the user indicates a choice of immediate downloading or of deferred downloading of said file of additional data.
5. (Previously Presented) Interactive television process according to claim 2, wherein during step e), the reception of the proposal message is effected upon the reception of an application of the same type as the second application.
6. (Previously Presented) Interactive television process according to claim 1, wherein said file of additional data contains an additional application.
7. (Currently amended) Interactive television process according to claim 1, wherein during step a), ~~said receiver~~ the one of said receivers also receives said second application.
8. (Previously Presented) Interactive television process according to claim 1, comprising a step of automatic erasing of the contents of said memory.
9. (Previously Presented) Interactive television process according to claim 8, wherein a date of erasure is associated with said file of additional data and in that the erasure step comprises a periodic operation of reading this date and an erasure operation when this date is reached.

10. (Previously Presented) Interactive television process according to claim 1, wherein said file of additional data contains data chosen from among at least a piece of software, video data, pictures, sound and a combination of these types of data.

11. (Currently amended) Interactive television receiver comprising means for testing for the presence in said memory of said receiver the one of said receivers, of at least one file of additional data, comprising:

- means of reception of said startup application and of said first application;
- and means of starting up the first application in the absence of said file of additional data in said memory and of starting up a second application if said file is present in said memory, said second application using said file of additional data, where each of said applications is a functional assembly designed to be executed at the level of said receiver the one of said receivers, and said receiver preferably being designed to implement an interactive television process in accordance with claim 1.

12. (Previously Presented) Digital television terminal, comprising an interactive television receiver according to Claim 11.

13. (Currently amended) Process for transmitting applications by a broadcasting station to interactive television receivers, wherein each of said applications is a functional assembly designed to be executed at the level of said receivers and said applications comprise said startup application and said first application, said startup application being intended to cause said test for the presence in a memory of at least one of said receivers the one of said receivers, of at least one file of additional data, as well as to start up the first application in the absence of said file of additional data and to start up a second application if said file is present, said second application using said file of additional data, said transmitting process preferably being intended to implement said interactive television process in accordance with claim 1.

14. (Currently amended) Station for transmitting programs to interactive television receivers, comprising means of production and of transmission of at least one message comprising said startup application and said first application, said startup application being intended to cause said test for the presence in a memory of at least one of said receivers of at least one file of additional data, as well as to start up the first application in the absence of said file of additional data and to start up said second application if said file is present, said second application using said file of additional data, where each of said applications is a functional assembly designed to be executed at the level of said receivers the one of said receivers and said transmitting station preferably being intended to implement the transmitting process according to claim 13.

15. (Cancelled).